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002
LAND
SECRET WARS

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SECRET WARS
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GARRES

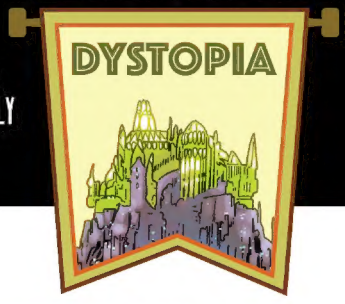
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD!**

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH DOMAIN RULED BY POWERFUL BARONS, BUT NONE MORE TIGHTLY CONDUCTED THAN...



SECRET WARS

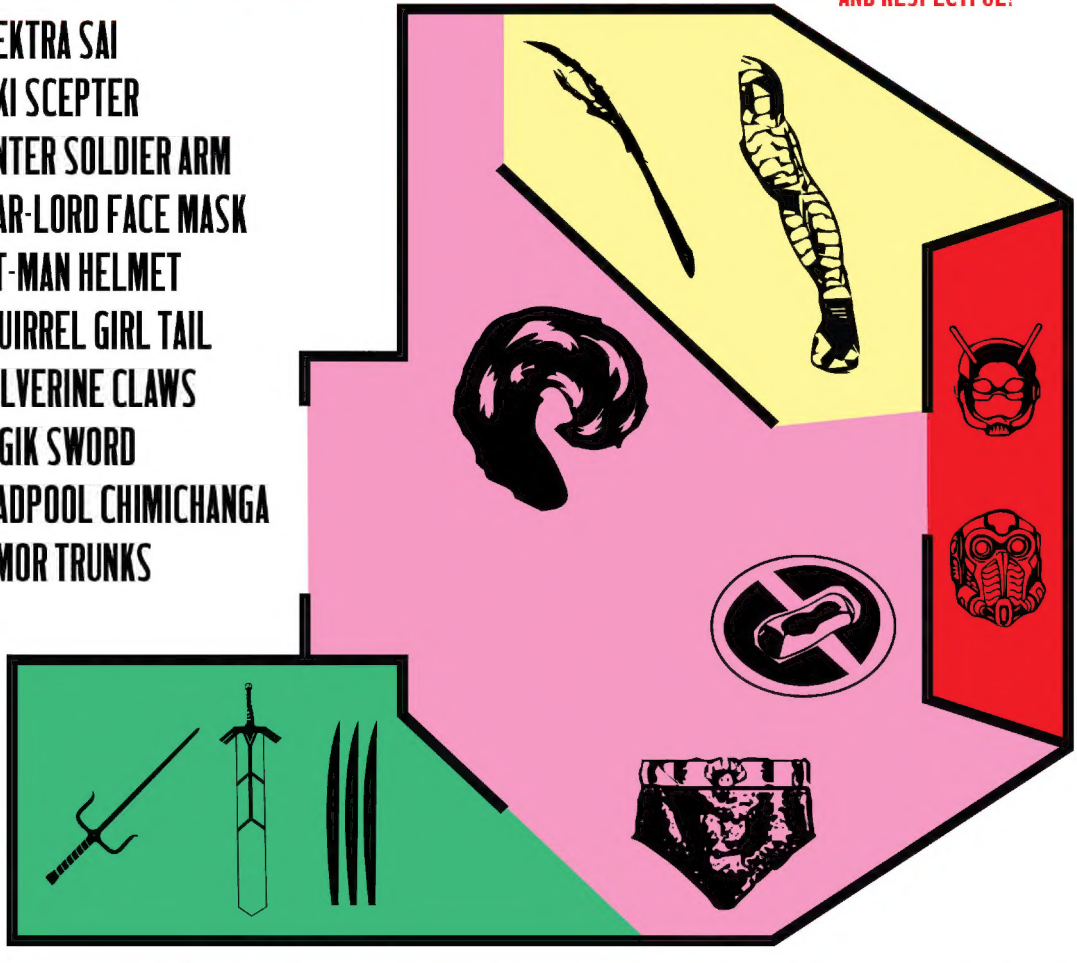
OUR EXALTED BARON, THE MAESTRO, WELCOMES YOU TO HIS TROPHY ROOM OF CONQUERED OPPONENTS.

EXHIBITING THIS SEASON:

EAST WING

*PLEASE REMAIN QUIET AND RESPECTFUL!

- ELEKTRA SAI
- LOKI SCEPTER
- WINTER SOLDIER ARM
- STAR-LORD FACE MASK
- ANT-MAN HELMET
- SQUIRREL GIRL TAIL
- WOLVERINE CLAWS
- MAGIK SWORD
- DEADPOOL CHIMICHANGA
- NAMOR TRUNKS



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In DYSTOPIA, the heroes of old are mere legends, and the inhabitants of the domain fight for their freedom from their Lord Baron MAESTRO! Among those who fight is Ruby Summers, a warrior mutant with ruby quartz skin. Ruby, who had taken to wandering the desert on the outskirts of DYSTOPIA, came across a man claiming to be the legendary Odin! In the hopes that the former god may give her cause an upper hand against the tyrant Baron Maestro, a twisted version of the Hulk with a genius-level strategic intellect, Ruby carried the frail man back to civilization.

Joined by her fellow revolutionaries—Janis, the mind-reader Slider, and a teleporter named Skooter—Ruby led the weakened man to their underground base of the operation. However, a routine mind scan revealed that "Odin" was just Maestro in disguise! With Ruby moments from death, and the people of the haven scattered with fear, the leader of the anti-Maestro revolt revealed himself to be a…THING!

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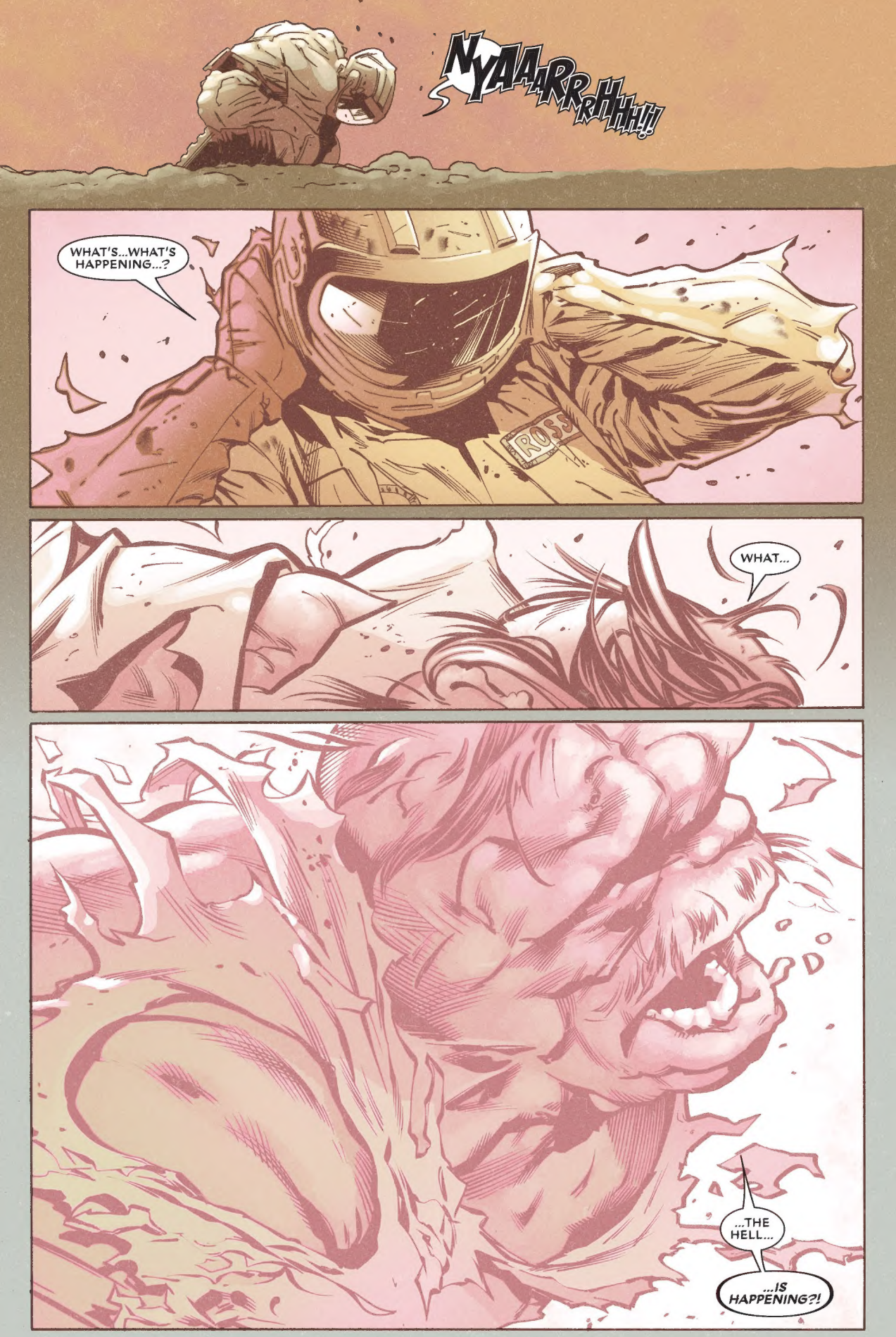
LAND & WOODARD COVER • **RAFA GARRES** VARIANT

HULK CREATED BY STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY

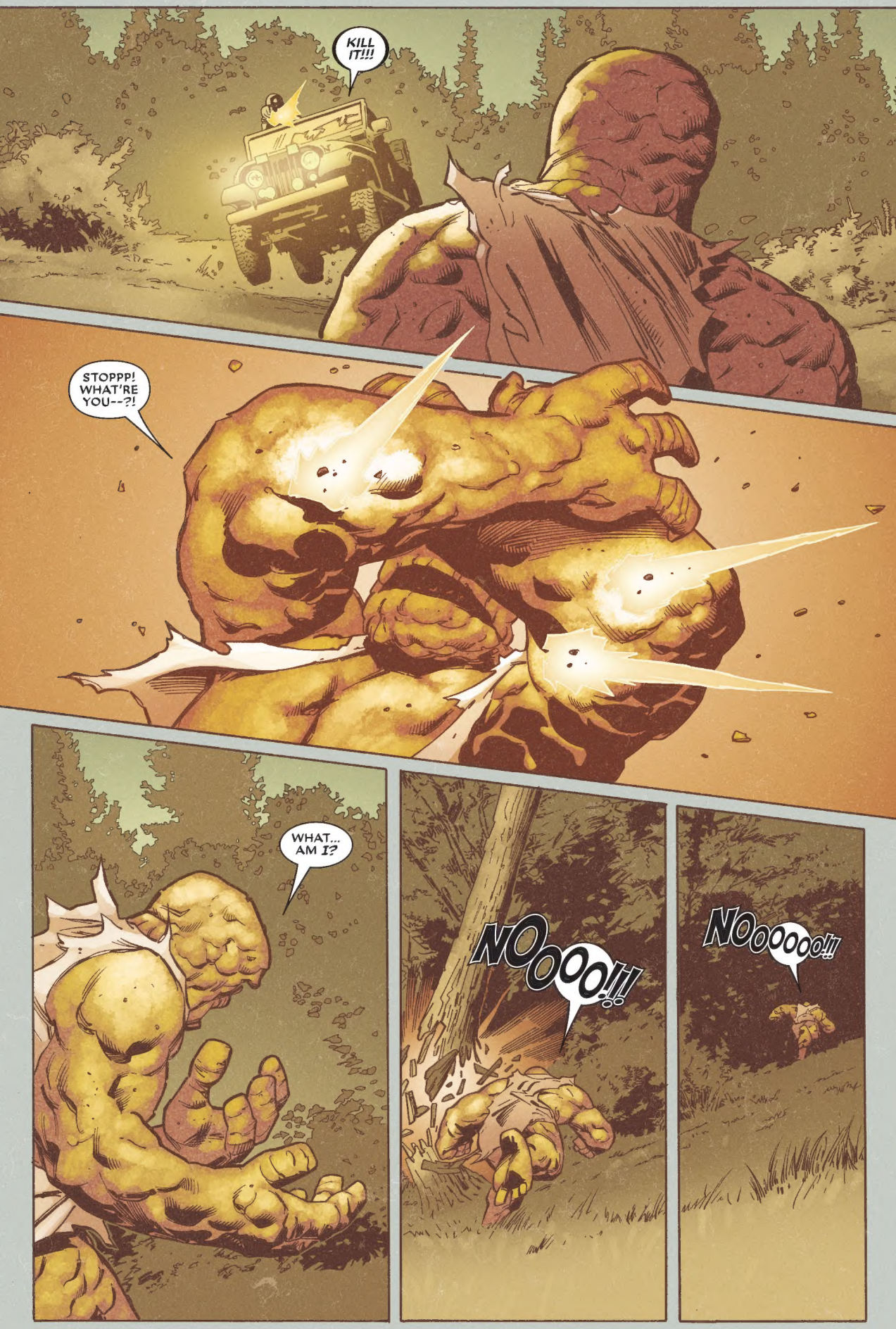
KEEP IT STEADY, THADDEUS!
KEEP IT STEADY!
OF COURSE I'M GOING TO KEEP IT STEADY, TALBOT.
AND NEED I REMIND YOU, WE AREN'T ON A FIRST NAME BASIS.
THAT'S "MAJOR" ROSS.
ROSS
DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND, MAJOR.
NO OFFENSE TAKEN. BOTTOM LINE IS, THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT IS BEATING THE RUSSKIES TO SPACE.
AND IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT DONE BEFORE THE AIR FORCE, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
ROSS
TALBO
HANG ON, TALBOT! THESE ARE THE COSMIC RAYS I WARNED YOU ABOUT!
I CAN'T KEEP IT STEADY!
YOU HAVE TO--
I CAN'T!

KAVLAAAAM
T-TALBOT?
TALBOT... WHERE ARE YOU?

TALBOT! ARE YOU OKAY?!
I TRIED TO BRING IT DOWN BEST I COULD! I TRIED TO--
OH MY GOD.
OH...MY... GOD.


NYAAARRRHHH!!
WHAT'S...WHAT'S HAPPENING...?
ROSS
WHAT...
...THE HELL...
...IS HAPPENING?!

UP HERE! FIVE HUNDRED FEET AWAY, GIVE OR TAKE!
BE READY FOR ANY--
THING?!
HOLY CRAP!!!
IT'S AN ALIEN! SOME SORT OF ALIEN THING!
HUH?

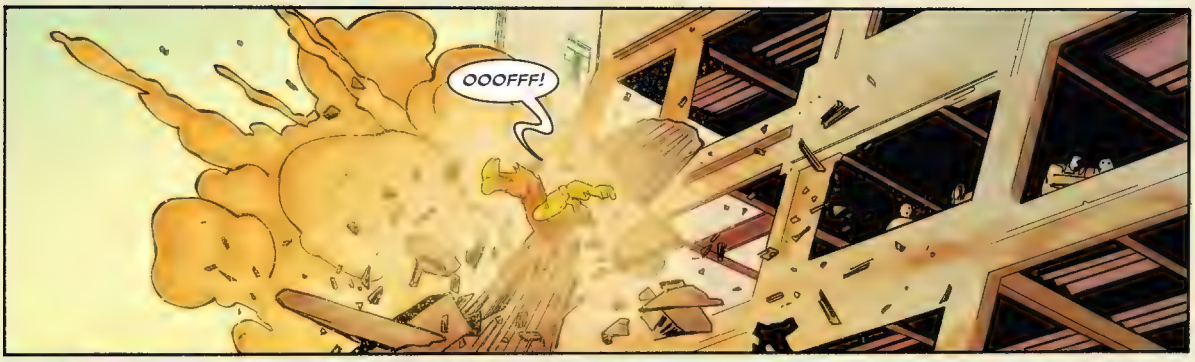

KILL IT!!!
STOPPP! WHAT'RE YOU--?!
WHAT... AM I?
NOOOO!!!
NOOOOO!!

NO!
YES.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME. STILL SUCKING OXYGEN, ROSS?
AFRAID SO.
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
YES, IT HAS.

IS THIS THE BEST YOU HAVE?
IT'S THE BEST ANYONE HAS.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT HARDLY HAS ANY JUICE IN IT!
I DUNNO WHAT TO TELL YOU, LADY. ORANGE IS ORANGE--
UNNHHH!!

OOOOOOFFF!
EVERYBODY! GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, ROSS.
STILL WORRYING ABOUT EVERYONE BUT YOURSELF.
THIS TIME IS GOING TO COST YOU.

WE NEED TO BUY THE BOSS AS MUCH TIME AS WE CAN SO SKOOTER CAN RELOCATE THE REST!
I SCAN THAT.
DO YOU THINK HE CAN TAKE THE MAESTRO ONE-ON-ONE?
I SURE AS SHOCK *HOPE* SO.
YOU'RE GETTING *OLD*, ROSS. SLOWING DOWN.
IN THE OLD DAYS, YOU COULD'VE MADE A FIGHT OF THIS.
STILL NOT A PROBLEM.
SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE THE ONE SHOWING HIS AGE.


OOOFFF!

FROM ABOVE I HEAR PEOPLE SCREAMING. SOUNDS LIKE A BUILDING COLLAPSING.
THERE'S NOTHING JANIS AND I CAN DO ABOUT IT. WE'RE STILL TOO FAR AWAY.
AT THIS POINT IT'S ALL UP TO THE BOSS.

PEOPLE JUST DIED, ROSS. THE PEOPLE IN THIS BUILDING WERE JUST CRUSHED TO DEATH.
DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU AT ALL?

I COULDN'T GIVE A DAMN.
IF OUR LITTLE FIGHT DESTROYS EVERYONE AROUND US, IT WOULDN'T BOTHER ME IN THE SLIGHTEST.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS KILLING YOU.

THEN BY ALL MEANS...

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
BRING IT ON!
WHEN THEY COLLIDE, IT MAKES A SOUND LIKE THUNDER EXPLODING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MARKET.
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW FAR IT CARRIES, BUT IT MAKES MY OWN RUBY SKIN RATTLE IN RESPONSE.

WELL ENDURED, ROSS. WELL ENDURED...
BUT ULTIMATELY FUTILE.
WAAAAM
TRYING TO STAND AGAIN? SERIOUSLY?
YOU'RE WASTING *BOTH* OUR TIME.

UNFFF!
GET THE BOSS! HURRY! I'LL HOLD HIM BACK!
NO. YOU WON'T.
YOU MIGHT HAVE SLOWED ME EARLIER, BUT THAT WAS THEN.
I'VE GOTTEN ANGRIER SINCE THAT POINT.
AND THE MADDER I GET...
...THE STRONGER I GET.
WHICH MEANS THAT YOUR POWER BLAST WON'T SLOW ME AT ALL THIS TIME.

EH?
I'VE GOT HER!!!
TAKE CARE OF THE THING, SIRE! THIS ONE IS ATTENDED TO!
OH NO YOU DON'T!
FORGET ABOUT ME?
THAT'S A DANGEROUS THING TO DO!

NO.
IT'S NOT.
WAKOWWWWW

OH, GOOD. THE CAVALRY.
GET A CART. STRAP HIM IN AND BRING HIM BACK TO THE CASTLE.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS, SIRE?
GOOD QUESTION.
THE DOG'S RIDER SEEMED TO BELIEVE HE HAD A HANDLE ON THE SITUATION.
EITHER HE DID OR HE DIDN'T.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. ROSS WAS THEIR HEAD.
WITH HIM CUT OFF, THE REST OF THE SNAKE WILL DIE.
HE SHOULD BE OUT FOR SOME HOURS. YOU HAVE TIME.
AND WHEN HE COMES TO...
THAT'S WHEN MATTERS WILL GET *INTERESTING.*

GOT TO GET CLEAR OF THIS THING...
GOT TO--
WHAT THE--?
WHY... WHY DID--?
CALM DOWN. JUST LISTEN TO--
GOT YOU!
WAIT! HOLD--
UNFFFF!

JANIS, HOLD IT!
HE LET ME GO!
HUH?
WHAT? WHY?
BECAUSE I'M ON YOUR SIDE.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
NO, IT'S REALLY NOT.
WHY WOULD YOU BE ON MY SIDE?
BECAUSE A HANDFUL OF US ARE. WE WORK IN THE PALACE, FOR THE MAESTRO.
WE'D LIKE TO SEE HIM GONE AND WE'RE HOPING YOU CAN HELP.
MY NAME'S LAYLA. LAYLA MILLER.
AND BY THE WAY, STOP SAYING "HE." I'M A GIRL.

COMFORTABLE, ROSS?
BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF I COULD GET MY HANDS ON YOUR THROAT.
NOW NOW. THAT SHOULDN'T BE YOUR ATTITUDE.
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE SET ASIDE OUR DIFFERENCES.
WHY WOULD WE DO THAT?
BECAUSE WE BOTH WANT THE SAME THING.
YOU WANT ME OUT OF DYSTOPIA AND I WANT TO GET OUT.
YEAH? AND WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
THE PALACE OF DOOM.
I WANT TO KILL HIM AND TAKE OVER.
CARE TO HELP?
TELL ME MORE.
to be continued...

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NEXT: EYES UP HERE

CHECK OUT THESE INCREDIBLE GREATEST HITS